



Saving

TEXAS HISTORY

The Texas General Land Office
Archives and Records Newsletter

Jerry Patterson, Commissioner

*Vol. 8 Number 1 * Summer 2011*

The 2nd Annual Save Texas History Symposium *The Texas Revolution at 175: Onward was the Cry!*

by James Harkins



SAVE TEXAS HISTORY!
★★ GENERAL LAND OFFICE
★★ PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

SYMPOSIUM

THE TEXAS REVOLUTION AT 175

"Onward was the cry!"
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011
8 AM TO 5 PM
Hosted by Commissioner Jerry Patterson
and the Texas General Land Office

Onward was the cry for Texian soldiers rebelling against Mexico 175 years ago. This year, the Texas General Land Office Save Texas History program marches onward with the 2nd Annual Save Texas History Symposium on Saturday, October 1. This event will celebrate Texas' victory over Mexico, and commemorate the valiant revolutionaries.

After the overwhelming success of the inaugural symposium, this year's event has moved to a bigger venue, the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin.

"Building on last year's success, the Symposium has become the cornerstone event for the Save Texas History program," said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. "With more than 200 anticipated attendees and guests, it's the biggest outreach effort of the year for the Archives."

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Last year, hundreds of people experienced the first ever Save Texas History Symposium. This year, even more are expected to attend.

Struggle for Money, Credit and Independence in the Republic of Texas (Bright Sky Press, 2009), James P. Bevill. Bevill will discuss how the early provisional government paid for a war without much more than its word for credit. Dr. Stephen Hardin, author of several books, including *Texian Iliad: A Military History of the Texas Revolution* (University of Texas Press, 1996) will speak about the military strategy of the war. Also speaking will be Dr. Gregg Dimmick, author of *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto, An Archeological Investigation* (Texas State Historical Association, 2006). Dr. Dimmick will close the morning session with the story of the Mexican retreat across Texas.

The Symposium will feature two new breakout sessions in the afternoon. One will be a panel discussion led by Dr. Alwyn Barr, which will examine people whose roles in the Revolution are seldom told. Highlighted will be the roles of Tejanos, women and blacks during the Revolution, and how these groups fit into the overall picture of the war. This discussion will feature David McDonald, author of *Jose Antonio Navarro: In Search of the American Dream in Nineteenth-Century Texas* (Texas State Historical Association, 2010). Also featured on this panel will be Dr. Jean Stuntz, author of *Hers, His & Theirs: Community Property Law in Spain & Early Texas* (Texas Tech University Press, 2005). Andrew Torget from the University of North Texas will discuss the experience of slaves in Texas and how the issue of slavery was one of the lesser-discussed reasons the Revolution was fought. Torget is known for several digital projects, including the *Valley of Shadows* and the *Texas Slavery Project* online.

Morning speakers include Dr. Gene Smith, Curator of History at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, who will be speaking about Manifest Destiny as one cause of the Texas Revolution. Dr. Smith co-wrote *Filibusters and Expansionists: Jeffersonian Manifest Destiny, 1800-1821*, with Frank L. Owsley, Jr. (University of Alabama Press, 1997). Also speaking will be the author of *The Paper Republic: The*

SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

WHEN

Saturday, October 1, 8 am – 5 pm

WHERE

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center
1900 University Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705

REGISTRATION COST

\$40

LATE REGISTRATION (AFTER SEPT. 16)

\$50

TO REGISTER, CONTACT JAMES HARKINS

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REGISTER ONLINE

www.savetexashistory.org

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Symposium attendees look over a handful of the thousands of maps housed at the Texas General Land Office.

Another new breakout session is geared toward Texas history educators, specifically fourth- and seventh-grade teachers. This two-hour workshop will feature presentations by Steve Cure, the Director of Educational Services for the Texas State Historical Association; Christiana Hanson of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum; and Buck Cole of the Land Office Archives. This workshop was created to give teachers a single source to learn about educational resources available for Texas history. Included in this session will be a town hall-style discussion to give teachers input into what they would like to see in the classroom. Eight CPE credits will be offered to all teachers who attend the Symposium.

The highlight of the Symposium will be tours of the Archives, featuring documents and letters that many Texas heroes actually wrote or handled. Among the documents to be displayed are the bounty land grant for Davy Crockett, Stephen F. Austin's Registro, touching first-hand accounts of soldiers, maps drawn by famed short-story writer O. Henry, first-hand accounts from Republic of Texas Navy seamen, and documents dealing with German immigration. The state-of-the-art Land Office ScanLab will also be shown.

This year will also feature a two-hour genealogical workshop that examines genealogical resources in the Travis County Archives, with a presentation by Travis County archivist Chirstie Moilanen. Also featured will be Aaron Holt with the National Archives, who will discuss genealogical resources at that institution. A presentation about the genealogical resources in the Land Office Archives will be given by James Harkins, and information about using DNA for genealogical purposes will be given by Mary Alice Dell.

In addition, attendees can survey part of the "40 Acres" on the campus of the University of Texas. A pioneer land surveying workshop will teach attendees how land surveyors worked more than a century ago, using some of the same tools that early surveyors would have used. Several vendors and exhibitors will also be on hand for the Symposium, providing shopping opportunities for attendees.



Bill O'Hara, Director of Surveying for the GLO, guides a group of symposium attendees at the State Capitol in 2010. In 2011, O'Hara will lead symposium attendees on a pioneer surveying tour of the University of Texas.

Remember, registration is limited. If you would like to attend this event, please call James Harkins at 512.463.3289 or send an email to james.harkins@glo.texas.gov, or visit the Symposium Web page at www.savetexashistory.org. ✨

Thanks to our Symposium Sponsors



The University of Texas Press
listing as of July 21, 2011

O. Henry in Austin: from Surprising Beginnings to the O. Henry Ending

by Lauren Goodley

After two years of exacting labor, O. Henry-related documents in Austin are now online thanks to a project involving the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records. "O. Henry in Austin: from Surprising Beginnings to the O. Henry Ending," is a digitization project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The Land Office collaborated with the Austin History Center and the Capitol Visitors Center to make their individual O. Henry items viewable in one place: [The Portal to Texas History](#).



Photo of draftsmen at the old Texas General Land Office, now the Capitol Visitors Center, taken around 1887-1891. O. Henry, identified as William Porter, is third from the right in the back row. Photo courtesy of the Capitol Visitors Center.

O. Henry brought us such notable short stories as "The Gift of the Magi," "The Ransom of Red Chief" and "Rouge et Noir," as well as "Bexar Scrip No. 2692" and "Georgia's Ruling," two fictional tales set at the Land Office. He became famous for his short, witty stories about everyday people, often with his signature plot twist at the end.



O. Henry's stories were published regularly in popular magazines. While in New York, he wrote and published nearly 400 short stories. Image courtesy of Austin History Center.

O. Henry was born William Sydney Porter in Greensborough, North Carolina in 1862. He attended elementary school and studied with his aunt, the local school teacher. He also became a licensed pharmacist. In 1882, Porter moved to South Texas, near Cotulla, to live with a friend of the family, Dr. James K. Hall. Porter had developed a cough, and both his mother, and later his wife, would die of tuberculosis. It was thought the dry, hot climate of South Texas would be good for his health.

After three years, Porter moved to Austin, where he again lived with family friends. He was active socially and in the arts, participating in the Hill City Quartet and attending the Governor's Ball, where legend has it he met his future wife, Athol Estes. He wrote and published a weekly paper, the *Rolling Stone*, which took shots at local politics and politicians. Porter worked several jobs in Austin, including a stint as a draftsman at the General Land Office while his friend Richard Hall was Land Commissioner. At the Land Office, Porter completed two maps beautifully illustrated with Texas landscapes. (See Map of Kent County, map #3756 and Map of Webb County, map #4128.) He also frequently requested pay advances.

Porter went on to work at the First National Bank of Texas before resigning after a federal audit. He later admitted leaving the till un-

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Receiver's Memorandum showing pay advances taken by W.S. Porter, draftsman at the Texas General Land Office. Porter (later known as O. Henry) earned \$100 per month, though he often took several advances during the month.

Receiver's Memorandum showing pay advances taken by W.S. Porter, draftsman at the Texas General Land Office. Porter (later known as O. Henry) earned \$100 per month, though he often took several advances during the month.

locked when he left for lunch. After resigning, Porter moved with his wife and young daughter to Houston, where he worked as a columnist at the *Houston*

Post. He was called back to Austin to stand trial for embezzlement.

Porter ran. He left his family in the care of his wife's family, and went first to New Orleans and then to Honduras, where it's believed he planned to bring his family. He eventually came back to Austin when he got word that his wife was very ill. Athol died, and a few months later Porter stood trial, spoke not a word in his defense, and was sentenced to six years in an Ohio federal penitentiary.

Porter was able to work and live at the penitentiary in the infirmary due to his pharmaceutical training; he never stayed in a cell. He had plenty of free time to write and began sending manuscripts to publishers in New York City via a friend in New Orleans, in order to avoid sending manuscripts from prison. This is when he began using the pseudonym O. Henry. When released after three years, O. Henry moved to New York to be closer to his publishers and also to his daughter, who was living with her grandparents in Pennsylvania. He died in bad health and poverty in 1906.

Did You Know

O. Henry coined the phrase "Banana Republic" in stories set in the fictional Central American country, the Republic of Anchuria?

In all, O. Henry spent 16 formative years in Texas, from the age of 19 to 36. The Land Office has records of his employment at the agency, including pay rosters and receiver's reports, as well as collected memorabilia. His home with Athol has been restored and is now the O. Henry Museum, part of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. A collection of first editions, photos, manuscripts and other items relating to O. Henry is housed at the Austin History Center, part of the Austin Public Library System. Also, the Capitol Visitors Center, administered by the Texas State Preservation Board, maintains a permanent exhibit, "The O. Henry Room," with period pieces and recordings of his stories. The Visitors Center sits on the Capitol grounds, in the original General Land Office Building where O. Henry worked as a draftsman. *



The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.

Texas History Education and Outreach in the Classroom

by Buck Cole

For teachers of Texas history, finding new, interesting and relevant resources for the classroom can be a challenge, and that's where the General Land Office—the state's oldest agency—can help. The Land Office has an educational program that introduces teachers to documents and maps in its Archives and makes them accessible to their classrooms.

The Land Office Archives Education and Outreach program has already had great success by providing access to valuable historical documents to thousands of teachers across the state. "Resources for Texas history courses are often difficult to find; your outreach program and materials have been outstanding," said Barbara Taylor of Education Service Center - Region 13. "The teachers at my workshops particularly like the easy access to unique historical maps and lesson plans."

The Archives and Records collection tells the history of land in Texas through first-person accounts and descriptions of early life in Texas, including correspondence from early settlers and soldiers of the Texas Revolution. "When teachers are able to make a personal connection to a document or map with a student, it becomes relevant to that student," said Joe Ramirez, Austin ISD Social Studies Supervisor. "Making personal connections helps students understand our past in meaningful ways."

Archives staff members are trained to correlate documents and lessons to TEKS standards, making these educator resources doubly useful. To familiarize educators with the Land Office collections, a new Teacher's Guide to the Land Office Archives summarizes early Texas land history in a concise, easy-to-read format.

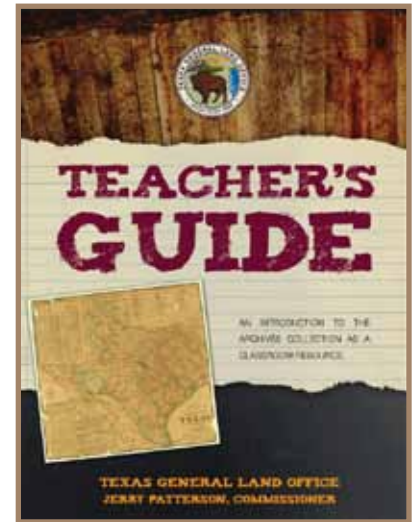
The Land Office also provides teachers with:

- Access to primary source documents in PDF format, easy-to-read transcriptions, and English translations of documents written in Spanish. A list of these documents is available upon request;
- TEKS-related lessons that use primary source maps and documents from the collection to enhance the classroom experience;
- Primary source workshops to introduce the collection to teachers and offer ways to access and infuse documents and maps into the curriculum;
- Tours of the Archives and Records collection;
- A special Texas History Educators Workshop as part of our annual Save Texas History Symposium;
- A state-wide essay contest for students, and more!

Do you "like" Texas history?

Love Texas history? Then "like" the new Save Texas History Facebook page! Get the latest news about the Texas General Land Office conservation and education program, including upcoming events, contests, media and Texas history trivia.

Watch for opportunities to win maps and other Save Texas History collectibles. Give STH a thumbs up to be entered in STH drawings. Keep up with your Save Texas History friends today! ✨



The Teacher's Guide is a great tool that explains how to use Land Office primary source material in the classroom.

"The staff of the GLO have been, and continue to be, working partners in the goal of making Texas history resources and programs available for students and educators that help to foster a deeper understanding of our past," said Steve Cure, Director of Education for the Texas State Historical Association.

Resources for Texas history educators are available online at www.glo.texas.gov, or call 512.936.9644. ✨

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Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Tours

by Kevin Klaus

The Texas General Land Office welcomes thousands of visitors every year, mostly for free tours of the agency's historic Archives and Records collections. Invariably, the tours leave quite an impression on participants. "I have a new interest in Texas history," said Gary Cummings of Campbell.

Thanks to Commissioner Jerry Patterson and the Save Texas History Program, the tours have become more visible to Texans and visitors from around the world. Visitors often find themselves accompanied by Patterson, an avid student of the state's past who earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from Texas A&M.



John Molleston of the Texas General Land Office Archives guides a captivated audience on a tour of GLO documents.

"The Land Office Archives are filled with interesting documents and beautiful maps," Patterson said. "When our staff highlights these documents for guests, it brings to life people who many Texans only remember from textbooks. By providing better access to these documents, the public will have a new appreciation for Texas history and will hopefully help us Save Texas History for the future."

Beginning in 2002, short talks or tours were occasionally given to visitors or Land Office staff members. But due to the great interest of patrons and the Archive's amazing collection, the tours grew in popularity and are now often requested by groups visiting Austin; they've become one of the cornerstones of educational outreach for the Land Office. "We offer tours to the public in hopes of spreading the word about all of the interesting documents that can be found at the General Land Office," said James Harkins, the Archives' Director of Public Services. "These tours help us spread the message that land history is more than just metes and bounds and acreage, it's the story of enterprising settlers and courageous revolutionaries." Harkins said the tours allow the public to see the impressive archival vault and the Scan Lab, which has put the Land Office at the forefront of archival scanning.

Tours are always free and focus on several of the most interesting documents and maps found at the Land Office, along with state-of-the-art facilities used to preserve, protect and provide access to documents. Tour content reflects how land and land policies not only shaped the boundaries of Texas, but shaped its history and settlement as well.

Most tours last an hour and feature treasures of the Archives, such as the Bounty land grant for David Crockett for his service in the Texas Revolution; the signed title given to James Bowie in 1831; Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families (the Registro); and original land patents signed by presidents Sam Houston, Mirabeau B. Lamar and David G. Burnet.

To Request a Speaker

to discuss Land Office genealogical resources with your group or society, please call 512-463-5277, or email archives@glo.texas.gov.

Other documents that garner interest are original letters from the battlefield where the Goliad Massacre occurred and eyewitness testimony from Susanna Dickenson, famed survivor of the Alamo. Some lucky visitors see the Muster Roll of the Republic of Texas, and what is believed to be the first draft of the Republic of Texas Constitution, created at Washington-on-the-Brazos in March 1836.

Patrons are then given a tour of the map vault, where exquisite examples of the historic map collection are displayed. Next, visi-

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Alex Chiba, left, Map Curator for the Texas General Land Office, guides a tour in the map vault.

tors learn what 35.5 million documents look like while passing through the huge archival vault. The technological side of the Archives is also revealed at the Archives ScanLab, where thousands of documents are digitally scanned and put on the Internet every day.

While anyone who walks in is welcome to tour the Archives, it's best to schedule in advance. With prior notice, tours can be tailored to specific interests or geographical regions of Texas, such as a family farm or a school. "One of the most enjoyable parts of giving a tour is showing someone where their home or office is located on a map," Harkins said.

of the rooms, groups of 20 or less offer the best tour experience. To schedule a tour or get more information, please call 512.463.5277, or visit us online at www.savetexashistory.org. ✨

General Land Office staff members are pleased to share this collection with anyone interested, but due to the size

WOMEN VS. WOODMEN

JANUARY 1925 AND THREE TEXAS WOMEN
HAVE THEIR DAY IN COURT



This week in Texas History, brought to you by this station and the Save Texas History program of the General Land Office.

January 8, 1925. Austin. When the City of El Paso had a land dispute with a fraternal organization called Woodmen of the World they took it to the Texas Supreme Court. Problem was, all three justices were members and therefore disqualified.

But most prominent men in Texas were members, so Governor Pat Neff appointed a special Supreme Court comprised entirely of women. Meeting at the Capitol, Hattie Hennenberg, Hortense Ward and Ruth Brazzil reviewed the case for five months, actually ruling on behalf of the Woodmen.

It would be 57 years before another woman was appointed to the Supreme Court.

The first—and only—all-woman Supreme Court convened 82 years ago.

This Week in Texas History.

HEAR THIS AT WWW.THISWEEKINTEXASHISTORY.ORG